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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroshi SEKI

Group Art Unit: 2817

Application No.: 10/657,190

Examiner: A. Kinead

Filed: September 9, 2003

Docket No.: 116738

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 11, 2005 Office Action, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 6, 7 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed September 9, 2003.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,025,230 to Kondo et al. ("Kondo") in view of JP09-064199 to Tsuji ("Tsuji"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Kondo does not disclose or suggest a transmission gate which is installed between an output terminal of an inverting amplifier and an input terminal of a buffer circuit, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 10, but asserts that Tsuji discloses this feature. However, Tsuji does not disclose or suggest a

transmission gate which is installed between an output terminal of an inverting amplifier and an input terminal of a buffer circuit, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Tsuji discloses a transmission gate 17 between an input 10 and a protected circuit 18. See Fig. 1 and paragraphs 0013-0017. However, Tsuji does not disclose that the input 10 corresponds to an output terminal of an inverting amplifier. In particular, Tsuji merely discloses that the input 10 is a bonding pad. See paragraph 0013.

Furthermore, Tsuji does not disclose that the protected circuit 18 corresponds to a buffer circuit. Thus, although Tsuji discloses a transmission gate 17, this transmission gate 17 is connected between a bonding pad 10 and a protected circuit 18. Tsuji does not disclose or suggest a transmission gate which is installed between an output terminal of an inverting amplifier and an input terminal of a buffer circuit, as recited in claims 1 and 10. Therefore, Tsuji does not supply the subject matter lacking in Kondo.

For at least the above reasons, Kondo and Tsuji, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 10, and claims 2-9 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/djb

Date: November 14, 2005

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